

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 EB-07 COME-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6842

UNCLAS MADRID 6365

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, BDIS, SP (HOVERMARINE)

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON SEIZURE OF HOVERCRAFT AT VALENCIA

REF: MADRID 6360 AND PREVIOUS

1. COMANDANTE DE MARINA IN VALENCIA INFORMED OUR CONSULAR AGENT THERE THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO DO NOTHING WITH REGARD TO RELEASING VESSEL UNTIL HE HEARD FURTHER FROM HIS SUPERIORS, I.E., THE REQUEST MADE IN OUR NOTE HAS SO FAR BEEN ACCEDED TO.

2. EMBOFF RECEIVED UNANNOUNCED VISIT THIS AFTERNOON FROM DIRECTOR FOR TAG FRANCE, MICHEL MYSKOWSKI AND HIS SPANISH LAWYER. MYSKOWSKISIRIOUSLY BERATED USG FOR INTERVENING IN A MATTER HE SAID WAS STRICTLY BETWEEN HIS FIRM AND A BRITISH COMPANY. HE PRODUCED PAPERS ISSUED IN NICE, FRANCE AND DATED AUGUST 16 BUT PURPORTING TO SHOW SHIP HAS BEEN PROPERTY OF TAG FRANCE SINCE JUNE. HE SAID SHIP WAS ILLEGALLY SPIRITED OUT OF FRANCE AT THREE IN THE MORNING, AND THAT THE ENGLISH CREW AND OTHERS CONNECTED WITH HOVERMARINE HAD LEFT BEHIND HOTEL BILLS OF \$10,000 WHICH TAG FRANCE HAS HAD TO PAY. MYSKOWSKI CONFIRMED THAT HE DID NOT REALLY WANT THIS VESSEL OR THE FIRST ONE PURCHASED UNDER THE SAME CONTRACT, AND IS SEEKING TO RECOVER THE MONEY TAG FRANCE HAS PAID HOVERMARINE.

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3. MYSKOWSKI'S LAWYER SAID THEY WOULD CALL ON NAVY

MINISTRY MORNING OF AUGUST 20 TO PERSUADE THEM THAT
SHIP'S PAPERS WERE VALID AND THAT GOS HAD NO CAUSE
FOR HOLDING CRAFT. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER
NAVY MINISTRY MIGHT BE INCLINED AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF
VESSEL BEFORE HOVERMARINE CAN FORMALLY PRESENT ITS CASE BUT
SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WANT TO INFORM HOVERMARINE LAWYERS
OF TAG FRANCE INTENTIONS. WE IMAGINE NAY MINISTRY WOULD
CONSULT WITH MFA BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION AND, IF WE ARE
APPROACHED BY MFA, AS WE PROPERLY SHOULD BE IN EVENT
CHANGE OF POLICY IS CONTEMPLATED, WE WILL UNLESS INSTRUCTED
OTHERWISE, RENEW REQUEST MADE IN OUR NOTE. MEANWHILE, WE
WILL ALERT OUR MFA CONTACT OF TAG FRANCE'S INTENDED COURSE.
STABLER

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